

**SECRET****VITEBSK****1. Location    1/****a. Administrative**

(1) The city is the capital of Vitebsk Oblast, Belorussian SSR.

**2. History    2/****a. The city's role in World War II:**

(1) Heavy fires raged in the city on 9 Jul 1941 and the city was subjected to a very heavy air raid on 28 Oct 1942.

(2) The city was taken by the German 20th Infantry Division and 20th Armored Division on 11 Jul 1941 and remained under German occupation until 27 Jun 1944.

According to records of the Sicherheitspolizei and SD for Jul and Aug 1941, 332 Jews were executed summarily and 27 Jews shot because of their refusal to work. The same agency, in Dec 1941, reported that it executed 207 Jews.

Colonel von Schweinitz of Feldkommandantur (FK) 244 is believed to have been City Commandant in Aug 1941. Length of tenure of office unknown.

As of Oct 1942, 6,622 men and 4,455 women had been transported into the Reich as laborers.

**3. Population    1/**

a. Total number: 167,420 (1939)

c. Composition of city's population by ethnic groups as of 1939:

Jews	45%
White Russians	30%
Great Russians	20%

**11. Miscellany**

The following documents may be used to obtain the location of items requested in paragraphs 5 through 10;

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a. A city map, with key, dated March 1941 (based on a 1918 map), issued in 1941 as part of "Militärgeographische Angaben Weisserussland" by the Map and Survey Division, German Army General Staff, (OMDS No E29/ID2.30);

b. Section on Vitebsk in Führer durch die Sowjet-Union (Guide Through the Soviet Union), published in 1928 by the Neuer Deutscher Verlag, Berlin (OMDS document)

Sources:

1/ Militärgeographische Angaben Weisserusslands, by the German Army General Staff, 1941

2/ Files of German Army field units and activity reports of the Sicherheitspolizei und SD

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